

**Amendments to the Claims :**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A device for extracting plastic preforms provided with a first portion having a predetermined transversal dimension and a second adjacent portion having a transversal dimension greater than the first portion, the device comprising a supporting structure, gripping means suitable to extract the preforms from conditioning cavities,  
a plate fixed to the supporting structure and incorporating gripping means, which comprise a plurality of straight slits parallel to a predefined direction,  
wherein each slit is provided with first sections of a first predetermined width and second sections forming constrictions of a second predetermined width,  
wherein the second predetermined width is smaller than the transversal dimension of the second portion of the preform and greater than the dimensions of the first portion of the preform,  
whereby the first width is such to allow the second portion of the preforms to fit into the slit, and the second width is such not to allow the second portion of the preforms to fit into the slit,  
wherein there are provided control and operating means to make the plate move in said direction by a predefined length, whereby the preforms are hooked by the plate when portions of the plate defining the second width register against the second portions of the preforms so as to extract the preforms from the conditioning cavities by reciprocally moving away the plate from the conditioning cavities.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the conditioning cavities are arranged side by side and in regular, parallel rows on a surface of a mobile element.

4. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein, in correspondence of the constrictions, the plate has a thickness smaller than the distance between the ring and the outer edge of the conditioning cavities, whereby a space is defined, in order to be able to fit into said space when moved in said direction.

5. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the mobile element is a turret pivotable around a horizontal axis, parallel to the plane of said plate.

6. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 5 comprising a safety system for adjusting an end-stop of the turret.

7. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 6 comprising a system for adjusting the height of the plate from ground level.

8. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the slits are of the through type, passing through the thickness of the plate, whereby the preforms that are extracted from the conditioning cavities of the turret can fall through the plate.

9. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 8 comprising motor means suitable to move the plane of the plate in a substantially direction orthogonal to the plane itself for extracting the preforms.

10. (Previously presented) An process for extracting a plurality of plastic preforms from their conditioning cavities by means of the device as claimed in claim 1 wherein there is provided a plate with straight and parallel slits having first wider sections and second sections with tooth-shaped constrictions, wherein, when the plastic preforms reach a predefined consistency the process comprises the following steps:

a) nearing the conditioning cavities containing the plastic preforms to the extracting device,

b) inserting the preforms into the slits by making the second wider portion of the preforms enter the wider sections of the slits,

c) translating the plate by a predetermined length in the direction until the wider portion of the plastic preforms comes into contact with the tooth-shaped

constrictions which fit into a space between the second portion and the first portion of the preforms, so as to hook the preforms into the plate,

d) moving away the plate from the conditioning cavities to extract the preforms from the conditioning cavities.